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MONDAY, MAY 3, 1915.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year. By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald.

GOOD RIDDANCE.

LOST—One tempo. Ran away—Strayed, or stolen; old and gray. Answers to the name of BAD; Disposition somewhat mad.

The ruling that sons-in-law cannot ride on commutation railroad tickets, the property of their fathers-in-law, will make the Interstate Commerce Commission popular in some households.

An Englishman, who used to be the Kaiser's head jockey, writes from a German prison to friends in England, begging for food. Apparently the Kaiser is not much of a sportsman.

One of Villa's officers fired at him three times without hitting him last Wednesday, according to the dispatches. Those officers of Villa's must get the blind stagers every time they go gunning for him.

A Vice Presidential boom has been launched for James Hamilton Lewis, probably just because somebody suggested recently that Jim Mann's whiskers would be an asset for a Presidential ticket; but Jim Ham's are whiskers of another color.

In a New York divorce court last week the wife's confessed inability to cook figured in the proceedings. Any tendency to consider the lack of this accomplishment in such suits must be firmly opposed or the gentle sex of the present generation will have to shun the divorce courts.

It is being suggested that as a result of his cavorting in the spotlight of the Barnes libel trial in Syracuse Col. Roosevelt will get right into the running for the G. O. P. nomination. This is dangerous business. If it is kept up and some one else is nominated, the Colonel may again get the notion that he has been cheated out of something.

Four New Jersey lawyers have been disbarred and three suspended from practice for various offenses, including the extortion of money from clients and the filing of false bills of complaint. Frequent disclosures in New York would indicate that some of the same medicine would do good over there.

"The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world," said a prominent life insurance official, "yet when it comes to the number of savings accounts, in proportion to the number of individuals, we stand way down the line." There is every evidence, however, that the people of this country have been practicing rigid economy in the past few years, and it is not impossible that the habit will stick with some of them, even when the normal condition of prosperity is restored.

David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer in England, has been studying American politics. He talked prohibition for several weeks and then proposed to Parliament doubling the taxes on alcoholic liquors, to raise the necessary revenues for the conduct of the war. There is no better way to persuade the people to submit to increased taxes than to begin with the threat to prohibit the manufacture and sale of the articles which pay the taxes. That is the way we generally begin in Congress and our State legislatures. Prohibition is fast coming to mean the promotion of taxes.

The British soldier, Lonsdale, has again been sentenced to death for striking an officer in a German prison, and a Canadian officer threatens to shoot three German prisoners who assaulted their guards if Lonsdale is put to death. It is to be hoped the German decision will be against establishing the custom of shooting prisoners of war who revolt or attempt to escape. The war has horrors enough without adding to them the deliberate killing of brave men in cold blood. It would seem that here is an opportunity for the women who are wasting their time and energy in efforts to bring about peace to really accomplish something.

There is no denying the obvious fact that diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany are becoming less and less cordial. Whether studied or not the German attitude toward this country is contemptuous. The sinking of an American vessel by a torpedo, with the loss of two American lives, threatens to bring about a situation dangerously near the "open hostility" of which Germans have hitherto complained without warrant. If friendly relations are to be maintained there must be a complete readjustment of the status of intercourse between Washington and Berlin. This government cannot continue complacently to submit to the ignoring of its protests. It must receive assurances that its rights as a neutral will be respected. It has been presumed that Germany values our friendship, but her recent course indicates that she would prefer us an enemy.

The Comptroller and the Riggs Bank.

We imagine that a good many people are wondering nowadays at the great public interest taken—of which enough evidence is the long columns devoted to the affair in the newspapers—in the controversy that has arisen between the Riggs National Bank in this city and the Comptroller of the Currency. One of the national banks of the country has had a dispute with a government officer regarding various matters which on their face seem to be of comparatively small moment. Why should there be so much bother about it?

The reason is that this matter brings up for settlement certain fundamental principles governing the relations between the national banks and the Treasury Department which have never been adjusted as they should have been in former years. Directly speaking, the question involved is the extent of the power over these national banks and institutions that can be legally exercised by the Comptroller of the Currency. How far does his control of the national banks go? Just what can he do and just what can he not do in the line of inquiry and restraint? The law on the subject is vague, and there is no subject in which the banks can have any greater interest than in a judicial exposition and definition of these statutes. Manifestly, also, the interest of the general public is as great as that of the banks.

Is there any limit to the comptroller's power and if so what is the limit? That is the real question up for determination. He has a general power given him to ascertain the "condition" of the banks. He has the right to require not less than five reports from the banks during each year and these reports must follow a set form which the comptroller prescribes, exhibiting in detail and under appropriate heads the resources and liabilities of the associations at the close of business on any past day specified. Also the comptroller has a right to call for special reports from any particular association whenever "the same is necessary in order to obtain a full and complete knowledge of condition." The curious fact is in the present case that there is no doubt at all that the condition of the Riggs National Bank is as satisfactory as it possibly can be. The bank is, beyond any shadow of doubt, sound and solvent. There is no intimation even, as we understand it, that its capital of \$1,000,000 and its surplus of \$2,000,000 is in the slightest way impaired. If it is admitted that the "condition" is not clouded in any way, has the comptroller a right to ask questions that may seem to be dictated by malice or by other motives than those of an official and rightful desire to obtain knowledge as to the bank's financial status? Can he ask any question he wishes to ask, regardless of purpose, motive or any other restraint whatever?

There is, of course, no doubt as to the right of the comptroller to impose a penalty for a refusal of the officials of a bank to answer any question that is proper; but this all harks back to the propriety of the question asked in any specific case. It is also plain, we think, that the management of a bank can not be held down to any cast iron rule in the management of its affairs. Banking customs differ in different localities. In many parts of the country the banks never do brokerage business at all or perform any of the functions ordinarily performed by a private banking house; but in other parts of the country the banks are the only financial firms or houses that serve the community and if they were to decline doing business for their customers of the kind that is ordinarily transacted by private banking houses in the large cities, these customers would be left without any one who could do this business for them. In this city the Riggs National Bank was originally a private banking house, and to a greater or less extent has, since its inauguration as a national bank, continued to maintain its old time relations with its depositors and to do for them the same general kind of business that it did when it was a private bank. We think that this is largely the custom of all the banks in this city. They act as agent for their depositors in the buying and selling of stocks and sometimes of real estate and other commodities in a way that is not done by banks in New York or in perhaps most other cities in the country. There has never been any secret of this. The custom has been general and has greatly accommodated our community. If the offense of the Riggs Bank—supposing that there has been an offense—consists in no more than this, it will not be anything that will be seriously considered by the people of the whole country.

Bearing all this in mind the reason may be seen in a clearer light just why banking officers all through the United States take such an interest in the present case. Are they compelled to answer every question that the Comptroller of the Currency may see fit to address to them? Almost every locality in the United States has ways of doing business peculiar to itself, adapted to the locality and the result of long years of custom. Must all these conform to the views and standards set up by some bureaucrat in Washington? Is our banking system to have any flexibility at all or must it be of an ironclad nature that changes not either in the North or South or in the territory east or west of the Mississippi River? And has the Comptroller of the Currency power to step into any bank at any time and when he finds anything in the management of the bank that he does not particularly like to impose a fine upon the management?

All this is of special importance just at the present time when the new Federal reserve banking system is being inaugurated. There can be nothing more fatal to the success of this system than for the national banks of the country to get the idea that they cannot count upon absolutely fair and proper treatment at the hands of the government officials and that this treatment may be dictated at times by personal ill-feeling or by any other improper motive. Let it be remembered that the success of the Federal reserve system depends upon the retention of the large national institutions in it with their enormous lines of deposit. What would happen to the Federal reserve system if a large number of these banks should withdraw from it, on the ground that their supervision by both the Federal Reserve Board and the Comptroller of the Currency was a case of too many cooks spoiling the banker's broth?

We regret to say that personally we feel the trouble between the Riggs Bank and the Treasury Department harks back to the unfortunate way taken by the present administration, early in its history, that a money trust was running the banks of the country and that the people are being oppressed by it. We had, however, for some time labored under the impression that the administration had abandoned that view and become convinced that the Federal Reserve Board alone could

be relied upon to exercise any control over the country's national banks that was desirable in the public's interest.

A Danger of Sympathy.

By JOHN D. BARRY.

SOME time ago a lawyer told me of an experience that I thought amusing. He saw no humor in it, however. As he spoke he showed a good deal of bitter feeling.

"I went down to the country a little while ago on a railroad case," he began. Then he told me something about the case. He was against the railroad and he had for associate a distinguished attorney.

"When we got down there," he said, "we were having everything our own way. It happened that on the other side there was a well known man that lived near by, a very delightful and a very rich old gentleman. When the noon recess was called the old gentleman invited my associate and myself to go to luncheon with him. I made an excuse. So did my associate. But the old gentleman insisted. 'There's no place in this one-horse town,' he said, 'where you can get anything fit to eat. Finally my associate was won over. Then, of course, I had to go, too, or seem to be unappreciative and disagreeable. The luncheon proved to be far more elaborate than even that rich man would usually have. I suspected that it had been specially prepared. We started with cocktails, went through several courses and we topped off with liqueurs and with expensive cigars. During the whole proceeding I was very uneasy, for I saw that my associate was thawing out under all this geniality. It happened that it was he who was to conduct the examination of the witnesses that afternoon, and among the witnesses were two guests at the table, both railroad men, with attractive manners and suave address, and our genial host was himself to be called to the stand. When we went back we were all on the best of terms. No one to see us talking and laughing with cigars in our mouths could have suspected that we belonged to two camps. The result of all this geniality was that when those three witnesses were called to the stand my associate treated them with such respect that he got virtually nothing out of them. There were several searching questions that he ought to have asked, questions that would have made those men very uncomfortable; but he didn't ask them. Consequently our case was seriously injured. We lost. But for the handling of those witnesses I believe that we should have had an easy victory."

We have lately been hearing a good deal of criticism of judges. Once judges were immune from criticism. In the change many people profess to believe there is danger. Judges, as a rule, are impressive men. Of course those in the lower courts are sometimes commonplace enough. I have heard them speak ungrammatically. I have seen them chewing tobacco. But somehow these very habits make them seem close to the people they judge. In observing them I have had the feeling that perhaps they were as good judges as could be found. If they were far away from the everyday people there might be no genuine sympathy between the delinquents and themselves.

The judges in the higher courts are much more impressive. Nearly always they are men of great dignity. When they wear robes it is fine to see them at court. No actors could carry themselves more effectively. And as they take their places on the bench, they sometimes seem almost to turn to granite. In some sense they seem more than human. In another sense, they seem less than human. Often they look like noble statues.

When people approach these judges it is always with the deference that might be paid to a king or to a god. Nevertheless, I have seen those granite men talking. And I have seen them become flesh and blood and unbound. And nearly always such a change has taken place in the presence of men like themselves, well-dressed, dignified, the men sometimes described as pillars of society.

It is plain that between dignified judges and men of wealth and dignity there is a strong bond of sympathy.

It is only lately that we have realized the danger of this sympathy. For we know that the sympathy of even the higher judges should be with all the people, not merely with those like themselves, but with the illiterate as well, the ill-clad, the grimy, the vast majority. We know that where there is sympathy with one kind of people and lack of sympathy with another kind of people there is likely to be favoritism, unfairness.

Woman Suffrage in Jersey. Votes for women in New Jersey are yet to come. But the cause is advancing when the governor of the State calls a special session of the legislature to correct an error in the suffrage bill providing for submission of the question at a special election.—New York World.

Effect of Embargo on Arms. There is a catchy reasonableness about the German-American argument that our neutrality is un-legal unless we forbid the export of arms. Germany having lost command of the sea, American traffic in war supplies helps the allies. If the position were reversed, our neutrality would still be impugned, but not by the German-Americans, and we should be written down as the partner of "Teutonic" militarism.

Partisans aside, there is, we believe, a growing body of pacifist opinion, represented by men of the ability and character of Dr. Edward Devine, which insists that American manufacturers are "capitalizing carnage," making profits out of murder, and that in decency and in humanity this nation ought to have nothing to do with the European conflict.

But what would be the consequences of so pure a stand? It would "stop the war," we are told, but where? With Germany in possession of Belgium and the richest part of France. And the lesson to England and France? It would be that militarism pays, that God is on the side of the big ready battalions, that a nation which dreams, plans and organizes a war can impose its will on the less military nations.

Such an embargo would be regarded by the allies as the most desperate treachery, as an arbitrary reversal of all international law, not in time of peace, but in the midst of a terrible crisis. We should, by the embargo which Barthold and others propose, neutralize at one stroke a large part of British naval superiority; we should be doing as much for Germany as if we established a fairly good blockade in the Atlantic. And if ever we ourselves faced a life-and-death struggle, we should have established a precedent which might prove fatal.

The proposal is a piece of thoughtless morality, a bit of good intention with unconsidered consequences. As a method of warring against war it belongs with incantations, spells and the sacrificing of goats.—The New Republic.

OUR COUNTRY—OUR PRESIDENT! A History of the American People by WOODROW WILSON GETTING RID OF TYRANNY.

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HEAPLY the new tyranny had no longer life in America, than in England. It came promptly enough to it, and when the news reached the colonies of James' disarming and flight and William's proclamation, the revolution in England, moreover, came also news of war with France, the ousted King's nominal friend and ally; and the King's officers fell into an evident panic.

The Boston people rose, as if by a common instinct; seized Andros and his officers; seized the fort; seized even the King's frigate lying in the harbor; and resumed their old government under their old magistrates, to await further tidings from over sea.

The other colonies found about followed suit. Sir Edmund had got himself well hated. He was an honest, well-meaning man enough, a plain and unassuming quick-witted soldier who executed his orders quite literally; but he was arbitrary and harsh, and showed some times an unwise and unbecoming hardness of heart. And the orders he tried to execute were intolerable to the people of the once free colony he governed.

He levied taxes by the authority of the crown; he demanded quit-rents of all the land owners of the colony, because the loss of the charter, he was held by the law officers in England, to the land they had acquired under the charter, he sought to crush opposition by harsh punishments.

To these Puritans it was no small part of the trying experience that he encouraged some to set up a society to worship after the manner of the Church of England, and use the hated Episcopal congregation thus formed as a place of worship, which they called King's Chapel, in Boston.

It was a happy day when they got news of the hateful tyranny; and an assurance of better times when they presently learned that the new government at home was willing that they should send Sir Edmund and his fellow prisoners to England for trial.

The action of the ordinary town had been prompt and decisive in New York, James' own province. Francis Nicholson, Andros' deputy in New York, was a man who was not little liked there as Andros himself was in Boston. Both he and the members of his council, because they supported him, were looked upon as tools of a papist king, and New York was Dutch and Protestant.

The two regiments of the King's regulars, which had brought with him upon his second coming out, to be governor of all the northern coast, where Irish Catholics every where, Nicholson had chosen as his commander one of them. To the

met the Kearsarge in action and was defeated. His vessel went down. "Everybody must be familiar," said Mr. Cox, "with the picture painted by an artist some time after the fight between the Kearsarge and the Alabama. It represented the Alabama in the act of sinking the Kearsarge. This picture was made and the people in this way became familiar with the painting. It was presented either to Secretary William H. Hunt or to the Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles. I am not certain which.

A year or two after the painting had been placed upon exhibition, Capt. Winslow was in Washington. He was asked if he would not like to see this painting and when he said he would he was taken to the place where it hung on exhibition.

Winslow looked at the picture for a long time and at last was asked if it was a fairly accurate portrayal of the battle. He hesitated at replying and did not do so until urged. Then he said: "It is a very good likeness of the Kearsarge, but it is not an accurate one of the Alabama. In the painting the Alabama made him appear much smaller than the Kearsarge. That isn't right. She was as big as the Kearsarge, if not bigger. She had more guns and a larger crew. The picture would be better if it showed more accurately the appearance of the Alabama."

Tomorrow Dr. Edwards will tell of "Farragut's Coffee Order at Mobile Bay."

Morning Smiles. A Sweet Favored. Payton—After his death an autopsy was performed. Mrs. Malaprop—How swell! By which orchestra?—Life.

No Escape. "Biddick's latest movie didn't better his condition, did it?" "No," he merely jumped from the electric griddle into the grease cooker.—Puck.

Rapid. Philadelphia is to teach geography by moving pictures. That is about the only way to keep up with European geography.—Indianapolis News.

Self-Help. Voice—Is this the Weather Bureau? How about the tonight? Prophet—Don't ask me. If you need one, take it.—Chaparral.

The Regular Rate. "You say you saw me kiss your sister last night? Don't suppose you were mistaken?" "Sure, I could—for a quarter. That's what the other fellows always give me!"—Chicago News.

Reward for Bravery. Aunt Ethel—Well, Beatrice, were you very brave at the dentist's? Beatrice—Yes, auntie, I was.

Aunt Ethel—Them, there? The half crown I promised you. And now tell me what he did to you. Beatrice—He pulled out two of Willie's teeth.—Puck.

OPHELIA'S SLATE. UNEXPECTED GUESTS! 25 TIMES THE FOOD KILLER.

Doings of Society

An innovation in the way of a charity benefit is the flower tag day which is to be inaugurated on Saturday. Society girls and matrons will sell dainty corsages on the streets and in the horse show grounds in aid of the Washington Diet Kitchen, following the European custom. In England the wild rose, Queen Alexandra's favorite flower, is sold for the benefit of the hospitals in which she is interested. The tuberculosis wards in Russia are benefited by the sale of the gorgeous and delicate white flowers, girls of Paris, with their fragrant baskets, are a picturesque sight in the Champs Elysees and the Rue de la Paix.

Miss Hauge is chairman of the committee in charge of the flower sale, and is assisted by Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Horace Westcott, Mrs. Garrison McClintock, and Mrs. Howard. Miss Adelaide Heath has charge of the stations. Miss Grayson, president of the Diet Kitchen, and the members of the board are Lady Spring-Rice, Mrs. Kirk Porter, Mrs. Vanderpool, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Shavely, Mrs. E. McLean, Mrs. Oscar Underwood, Mrs. J. H. Merriam, Mrs. David F. Houston, Mrs. Wolcott, Mrs. L. H. Bradley, Mrs. James H. H. Perkins, and Mrs. Moore, Mrs. H. C. Perkins, and Miss Lee.

Miss Dorothy Gates was hostess at luncheon yesterday in honor of the girls from Little Rock, Ark., who are attending school in Washington. Among the guests were Mrs. Frances Moore, Miss Edith Cornish, Miss Frances Merriwether, Miss Mabel Whittenburg, of Bristol Seminary; Miss Nannie Jett, of Washington; Miss Hinkle, of Guston; Miss Isabel Hinkle, of National Cathedral; Miss Rosalie Kidd, of Chevy Chase Seminary, and Miss Anna Mae Parker, of Washington.

Mrs. Stephen Dandridge Kennedy has announced the marriage of her cousin Miss Wendell Kennedy, of Kentucky, to Dr. David Lynn Edzell, of Boston. The wedding will take place quietly on June 1 at the home of Mrs. Kennedy, 1000 Madison Dr. and Mrs. William Beverley Mason, in Washington.

The marriage of Miss Helen Hunt, daughter of Judge and Mrs. William H. Hunt, and Mr. Barnaby Conrad, will take place on Saturday afternoon, May 22, at 4 o'clock at St. Paul's Church. Miss Gertrude Hunt will be maid of honor for her sister and the flower girl will be the bride's small cousin, Miss Betty Thompson. A reception will follow at 4:30 o'clock.

Judge and Mrs. Hunt have recently returned to Washington and are at their home, 179 N. Street.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Hicks of Washington, are spending a few days in New York City, and have made their stopping place at the Wolcott Hotel.

Members of the United States navy at present staying at the Willard include Commander Provost Rabin and Mrs. Rabin, Lieut. and Mrs. George C. Munroe, and Ensign S. M. Krauss.

Gen. and Mrs. George Barnett entertained at dinner Saturday evening when their guests were the Brazilian Ambassador and Mme. da Gama, Mrs. Percy Gray, Mrs. E. R. B. and Mrs. S. L. McCawley, Mr. and Mrs. William Barrett Riggley, Col. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. Lloyd Waller, Dr. Bishop, and Maj. Henry Leonard.

Mr. and Mrs. Richmond P. Hobson will leave this morning for their summer home at Tuxedo, N. Y.

Mrs. Percy V. Pennypacker, president of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, is the guest of the Postmaster General and Mrs. Burleson. Mrs. Burleson is at the Willard.

Mrs. Clarence Moore, whose husband was drowned in the Titanic disaster, was married to Mr. Akel Christian Preben Wielselt, of New York, on Saturday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock, at her residence in Massachusetts avenue. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Roland Cotton Smith, rector of St. John's Church, in the presence of the Danish Minister, uncle of the bride, and Mrs. Woodbury Blair, and Miss Frances Moore. Mr. and Mrs. Wielselt left immediately after the ceremony for New York in a motor car, they left for a trip to California, accompanied by Miss Frances Moore.

An interesting motor party arriving at the Willard yesterday included Mrs. Daniel Willard, wife of the president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and her daughter, Mrs. M. A. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Smith, of Nashville, N. H.

Beach or Pasadena, Topeka, Kans., a Cuban, and a girl from Boston, N. Y., Pittsburgh, Chicago or San Francisco. The average age of the victims of these diseases was between 60 and 65, and their deaths were reported from the smaller cities more often than from the large cities. The highest death rate from Bright's disease was from South Carolina. The whole State of Kansas is not in the registered area of the census office, but in these the death rate from these diseases was greater than from any other cause of death from Bright's disease and acute nephritis.

As these are the only official statistics on which the church poster can be based, it would suggest that Dr. Wood give a little personal attention to what appears on the walls of his church. The outer walls of the Church of the Covenant would be as free from sensational misrepresentation as are the sermons of the pastor.

Woman Commends Interest in Behalf of Hunchback Bootblack. Editor of The Washington Herald: That was a mighty fine thing The Herald did in giving so much of its valuable space to the case of the crippled colored boy summarily tumbled out of his chance to live by blacking boots for the kindly disposed employees of the Navy Department.

When great metropolitan dailies like The World and The Herald will stop to notice the suffering of such "unimportant" humanity as a crippled colored lad who has nothing to recommend him but his bright smile and unvarying politeness, it argues well for the future of our country that we can never begin to realize our dream or hope to touch the actual sore spot that we are all trying to hypnotize ourselves into disregarding.

To bar off a slum denoted "clean up" a city; to ignore the poor quarters doesn't enhance the beauty of "our aristocratic" neighborhoods; to forget the wrongs of the helpless

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE.

Demonstrations "AMERICAN" ICE CREAMS—WATER ICES 50c the Quart. The New Willard SUPER DANCE IN RED ROOM NEEDY SINGERS BY THE ORCHESTRA SERVICE A LA CARTE.